



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Michael E. Ettore
Superintendent of Schools
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September 3, 2020

Dear Little Silver Families,

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the final days of the summer season. Although this summer has felt different in many ways, the rapid approach of Labor Day Weekend remains a signal that a new school year is about to begin. Now that we are so close to FINALLY welcoming students back to our schools, the time is right for me to share the expectations that should be implemented at home in order for the hybrid learning model to function at the highest possible level. Throughout the past few months, I have emphasized the need to start the year with an improved sense of structure and consistency from day one so that students (and parents) can transition into the types of routines that are conducive to learning from home.

Here are the expectations for students to follow on the days that they are engaged in remote learning from home:

- Log in to start your day on time for attendance purposes. Lateness and absences will be recorded by the teachers in both schools each day.
- Have your camera turned on at all times, unless the teacher gives a different direction.
- Follow your schedule for that day of the week from homeroom time until dismissal time.
- Position yourself in an appropriate space for learning and working (i.e. kitchen table or desk). Students should NOT be attending learning sessions while in their beds.
- Students should be dressed appropriately as if they were going to school. NO PAJAMAS!
- Unless the class is having a scheduled snack time, students should refrain from eating and drinking while a virtual session is taking place.
- Students should not be using other devices, including cell phones, during virtual sessions. When students are in school, cell phones are required to be off and in lockers or backpacks.
- Students should not leave a virtual session unless they have a bathroom emergency.
- Students should participate in discussions and activities based on the teacher's directions using the Zoom chat feature, email or other resource being used by the class.

Parents, I strongly encourage you to review these expectations with your child/children and even consider posting this information in a strategic location in your house. I realize that the above expectations will require a certain degree of monitoring on the part of parents, but I strongly believe that if these expectations are consistently enforced, then we will all see better results at home and at school. On a related note, the teachers have created weekly planners to provide families with information regarding their lesson plans, schedules, assignments and assessments. This information can be found on the front page of the website for both schools.

On a separate note, you may have noticed a decline in the number of Code Red alerts being sent by the district. This was done intentionally in order to utilize this service for emergency situations only. For all other non-emergency situations, the Genesis system will be used to send



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broadcast email and text messages to all parents and guardians to alert families when important updates and information are being posted on the website.

Finally, the officials from the local Health Department have asked that all school districts remind our parent communities about the importance of cooperating with their agency if/when needed during their contacting tracing investigations. In the event that you or someone from your family tests positive for Covid-19 or is exposed to someone who has tested positive, it is critical that you comply with the expectations set forth by the CDC and the local Health Department. Participating openly and honestly in the contact tracing investigation process will enable the local officials to determine the best course of action that should be taken by our district.

Clearly, there is a need for a greater degree of cooperation and diligence on the part of teachers, administration, and families this year. However, I truly believe that if we all do our part on a consistent basis, then we will give our students the type of support they need to be successful. Additionally, our collective efforts will hopefully enable me to recommend moving the district forward into the next phase of the Reopening Plan as quickly as possible.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Labor Day Weekend and is able to rest and get ready for the start of the 2020-2021 school year!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael E. Ettore".

Superintendent